painted glass, they will confer a great favour upon myself, and will promote our knowledge of this interesting subject, if they will see whether old glass does or does not confirm this theory.

J. BIRKBECK NEVINS, M.D.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A NEW school for boys and girls has been erected at Little Harrowden, Northamptonshire. It is a stone building, and simple in character. It was opened on Thursday last. Mr. Law, architect.——A new aisle has been added to the parish church of Roade, in the county of Northampton, whereby an increase of accommodation to the number of 75 free seats has been obtained. The style is Early English, corresponding with the tower. The works have been executed under the superintendence of the last-named architect, who has also recently restored the endowed school at Burton Latimer, in the same county. It is a building of the Elizabethan period.——St. James's Church, Burton Lazars, near Melton Mowbray, was re-opened on 29th ult. and has been partly rebuilt, restored, and repaired, at a cost of 550*l*. The chancel has been entirely rebuilt, the structure of the roof altered, and three new windows inserted. The walls of chancel have been enriched by carved stone corbels. The nave roof is new, the old carving imitated. The interior of the church has been cleaned, the walls plastered, arches and pillars restored, including mouldings and ancient carving. The pews have been lowered, the aisles have been newly roofed, and some arches in a dangerous state replaced, the pillars set upright. An unsightly and inconvenient gallery has been removed from west end. The arch of the tower, of peculiar construction, has thus been brought into view. The font has been placed in front of the tower arch. A perfect piscina has been discovered in the wall of the south aisle, which, says our authority, has properly been preserved as a memorial of Romish superstition. The remains of a Norman piscina were found in the chancel, removed from their original position.——Mr. W. H. Gore Langton, of Newton Park, has given 100*l*. towards the erection of public fountains in Bath.——The Sheffield Gas Company are monopolising the gas-fitting business of the town, under pretence that it is in consequence of the want of skill and ability on the part of the fitters that they do so. This is a pretence of rather a stale description now, for we have repeatedly had to record the monopolisation of the gas-fitting business by gas companies in other towns under the same plausible pretence. True there are incompetent members in every trade; but it is rather a lop-sided balance of justice to exclude the competent tradesmen from their lawful public calling on that account. Moreover, the gas-fitters declare that the company itself was to blame for the introduction of the black sheep at a time when rivalry induced a desire to barter the job to any one in return for the acquisition of a new customer. The company's Act gives them no power to monopolize the gas-fitting business. A correspondent of the *Sheffield Times*, in allusion to the price of the gas, says, "Some boast is made of the lowest price being only 3*s*. 11½*d*.; but I should like to ask how many customers the company have who get their gas at this price. I find by the company's list, that for the quarter ending December 31 and March 31, their consumption must be 500,000 feet and upwards before they come to this price, which would amount to about 100*l*. per quarter; and for the quarter ending June 30 and September 30, the consumption must be half the above amount; so that, so far as the great mass of consumers are concerned, the statement is of no value whatever." This is exactly what we anticipated,—a deceptive and unworthy device.——The workmen (nearly 1,100) in the Leeds Railway Foundry are now out on strike, and have had frequent public meetings on Hunslet Moor, with military bands, &c. The hands turned out on a question arising out of the discharge of the smiths' foreman, and from general dissatisfaction with the manager.——The consecration of St. Ninian's, the first cathedral in Scotland during the last 300 years, took place on Wednesday week; the Bishop of Brechin officiating for the Bishop of St. Andrew's. At present only the choir, transepts, and one bay of the nave are complete. The building has been erected from the designs of Mr. Butterfield, and is in the Middle Pointed style.——With reference to our recent notice of the church in George-street, Oxford, we are requested to say that the sum of 4,450*l*., stated by an Oxford paper as the cost of the building, included the cost of site and conveyance, repair fund, &c.; so that our own statement was correct.

STRIKE OF ENGINE-DRIVERS.

WE very much regret to find that the engine-drivers on the Northern division of the London and North-Western Railway have suddenly announced a determination to strike in a body at this busy season, in order to compel the directors to alter their arrangements for substituting quarterly for fortnightly engagements *in taking on new hands*. It is sad to find that experience of the evil results to all parties, but more especially to the strikers themselves, from the system of strikes, is of no avail. Whatever be the immediate result, which itself is but too likely to prove ruinous to many poor families, without a doubt the bonds of servitude will be afterwards only drawn the tighter over its unruly members. Do not the men see that the inevitable result of all these strikes will be that it will encourage railway directors *to initiate hundreds of new hands*, even at some temporary expense to themselves, in order that the *supply* of engine-drivers may exceed, and not as now fall short of, the *demand*? And who will suffer then? not only the present body, who, we think, are extremely well off, but the whole of the increased class together, many of whom will ever be thrust out of employment, and prevented from regaining it, by the competition which undue numbers will induce. Let the present body of drivers be advised. For their own sakes, they ought at once to retrace their erroneous steps and make honourable peace with their employers.

MAHOGANY.

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us some particulars of three fine logs of mahogany recently sold by auction in Liverpool. They were grown in St. Domingo. One of them was purchased for France, and sent, according to the French customs regulations, to Rotterdam, and thence to France. Another was purchased at the same time in London, with a large parcel, forwarded by railway to Liverpool, shipped with a full cargo of mahogany to Magador, and thence to Havre. From an error in the formalities of the papers, the cargo was not admitted in France, and had to be re-shipped to New-York and again imported from the United States to Havre, where the log was purchased by a Paris timber-merchant, and cut into planks. These three logs, cut into planks, were selected for the embellishment of Versailles, and an enormous price paid for them, but the French Revolution prevented their delivery, and they were bought on speculation for the English market.

It is a curious fact, that although mahogany seems sometimes to be laid aside for other fashionable woods, such as rose wood, tulip wood, amboyna wood, &c., it keeps up its superiority.

The history of the mahogany tree is well known. Its botanical name is Swetenia, in honour of Baron von Sweten, author of several botanical works. We will not enumerate here the different species of mahogany.

Our correspondent says he wants "some explanation of the cause of the different shades existing in mahogany and other woods. I have studied the vegetable anatomy of different authors, and find that all they say upon the subject treats on the sap, small spiral vessels, common and modullary texture, punctuated and bundles of spirils, &c., which does not appear sufficient for our purpose. They explain the growth of the wood by the annual layers from the centre and the bark of the tree, but give very few details concerning the grain of the wood, and principally of mahogany, which differs so much in texture and in the appearance of the different shades, technically termed *roe, broken roe, bold roe, mottle, faint mottle, dapple*, &c. These denominations are merely technical expressions formed by dealers and artizans, and not scientific classifications; and the learned men, who have taken so much trouble in forming and modelling the botanical system, and who have devoted so much time to the study of the leaves, branches, flowers, fruit, seeds, bark, and the form of the tree, have bestowed very little attention upon the body of the tree, viz., the wood, its grain, and use, hardness, and chemical qualities.

"I would likewise be glad to know whether the little knots that we find in Bird's-eye maple, and of a larger form in knotted mahogany (plum), can be considered as disease of the tree, or as arising from some other cause? Whether the small cross shades that produce the mottle, are, as we presume, the effect of the slow growth of a tree exposed to the currents of air in higher regions or not? Whether the long roe dark and lighter shadows are produced by irregular windings of irregular bundles of spiral fibres, or from any other reason?"

SALFORD PEEL TESTIMONIAL COMPETITION.

IN examining the twenty-four models for a statue, which have been submitted, there does not appear much originality of composition, or even a departure from the conventional attitude which the few public statues in England commonly display; yet some of these designs in particular have been very successful in impressing the idea of an educated statesman in a habit characterising the manners of the time in which he lived, together with a desire to please the expressed views of the business-like Manchester mind, and which, if perpetuated in bronze or marble, might carry down to an admiring posterity the cut of every variety of coat from the "dress" to the "Nicolls' paletot" and the "railway wrapper."

The statue with the motto of "a Sailor" displays dignity, by the artistic management of the cloak. The statue marked "Truth," is full of grace and beauty. The attitude is remarkable for great ease, while the whole composition is well balanced throughout. An imposing design of a triangular character reminds one greatly of a presentation-piece, *to be done in silver*: at the truncated corners of the pedestal there are three allegorical figures, representing Legislation, Commerce, and Genius, supporting a pyramid for the statue of the late Right Hon. Baronet. It is stated in the appended description, that the statue is to be of bronze, 9 feet high, and the three figures and pedestals are to be of stone, of a size proportionate to the principal figure, as in the model of which the total height from the steps of the base to crown of the statue will be nearly 27 feet. Whether all these matters can be accomplished for the sum offered by the committee is a question which we have some doubt of affirming to be possible, even in the present days of patent brick and plaster. The model with the motto of "His fame deserves recording," is somewhat pretty and pleasing, and better adapted to the purpose. The two female figures at the base of the pedestal are good, the one representing History is writing upon the pedestal the now well-known passage in the last memorable speech of the late statesman. There is not much worthy of remark in the models for columns, altars, and obelisks; all are copies and adaptations from existing instances.

Amongst the sixty-eight designs upon paper, we do not discover the most ordinary indications of genius or originality: it is evident that there is great need of schools of design to educate architects into a knowledge of the elements of beauty and design, if we look upon the specimens here exhibited as any criterion of their taste: fifteen of the architectural structures are copied from the Queen Eleanor crosses; but they exhibit specimens of the Early English, Perpendicular, and Decorated styles, and seem quite unsuitable to the object of the Peel monument. Eighteen are designs for columns and obelisks, and twenty-one for porticoes, temples, and other buildings, the erection of any one of which would require double the amount of the money in the hands of the committee. The remaining designs are for statues, bell turrets, tombs, and a gateway somewhat after the pattern of the marble arch in Hyde park. There is one design which deserves exemption from this category of common things, bearing the motto "Let every one strive to deserve a monument." This is an amplification of the sign lamp engraved in a recent number of THE BUILDER. The base is enlarged and raised to the height of six feet, and from each angle there arises a decorated iron-work pillar: these four pillars support a florated iron-work canopy; the roof is composed of coloured porcelain tiles; and in the open work in the front similar tiles are introduced, emblazoned with heraldic quarterings. In the centre of the stone pedestal, and under the canopy, is a statue eight feet high. X.

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